

**Meeting Summary**  
**RI Economic Monitoring Collaborative**  
**October 12, 2005**  
**9:30 to 11:30am**  
**RI Economic Policy Council**

**Attendees:** Kip Bergstrom, Andrew Dzykewicz, Kenneth Kubic, Ariana McBride, Michael McGiveney, Stephen Medeiros, Richard Nadolink, Michael Slein, and Curt Spalding

**Welcome**

Kip Bergstrom opened the meeting by providing the Collaborative with an update on Coordination Team activities and discussed the process for incorporating the Collaborative's monitoring strategy into the larger Coordination Team framework. He introduced Ariana McBride to present a summary of the draft monitoring proposal.

**Economic Monitoring Strategy – Presentation & Discussion**

McBride presented the monitoring proposal (see PowerPoint slides). Collaborative members made several comments and suggestions for incorporation in the proposal:

- Marine Recreation, Marine Tourism, Marine Events & Marinas
  1. Need to capture the different types of infrastructure that support the different segments of this sector, such as commercial dockage. Also, need to capture ferry activity (currently included in Waterborne Transportation).
  2. Need to include a discussion of the impacts of regional ferries, particularly those whose destination is Block Island.
- Commercial Fishing, Aquaculture & Seafood Processing
  1. Need to include other standard data such as the number of licenses, which DEM collects. There is potential to work with DEM on the licensing process, particularly in terms of other data that could be collected.
- Boat Building, Ship Building & Boating-related Business
  1. Need to ensure that we include industries such as sail manufacturing and electronics firms.
- Marine, Coastal & Inland Research, Education & Advocacy
  1. Noted difficulty in capturing value of the advocacy element, particularly on how it has increased value of waterfront areas. Also, we want to look at the amount of volunteer work at these organizations.
- Waterfront Real Estate
  1. Need to add taxes generated from real estate. However, we need to be careful not to present this sector's value as only the taxes generated, but

- also need to look at other potential waterfront uses – what is being displaced by current residential trend. Can tell the story of the changing value of the water and waterfront.
2. Some of the measures presented (e.g. zoning) are not so much measures as context for this sector as well as others.
- Utilities
    1. Clarified that this includes energy and its storage, water supply and wastewater (potential to change sector title to something more descriptive).
  - Other Comments
    1. Need to recognize that it will be difficult to capture all water cluster related activity and that it will be a challenge to disaggregate some activity perfectly among the sectors. The key will be to present the overlaps/interconnectedness of the sectors through the narrative and value chain mapping.
    2. Be explicit about the benefit of RI's size in being able to test new ideas/products.
    3. Present this first stage of monitoring activity as the information we need to have in order to better shape policy. Before we can make optimal decisions, we have to start from a place where we share the same facts.
    4. Sector "deep dives" – members asked for clarification on the purpose of these. McBride replied that we need a process that explores the conditions that affect the water cluster so that future policy decisions can either address the need to change conditions or be developed in a way that respects those conditions that policy cannot change. Bergstrom added that in the January 2005 workshops, several key projects came out of an analysis of conditions/capabilities, including the need to look more closely at some of the sectors.

Following the presentation/discussion, Bergstrom called for a vote on whether to accept the proposal (with the above changes incorporated) and pass it along for consideration by the Coordination Team. Members voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

McBride noted that she will make the appropriate changes to the proposal and send it out to the Collaborative next week, prior to submission to the Coordination Team. She will also report to the Collaborative following the Coordination Team meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Narragansett Bay Commission.

### **Other Business**

Per a member request, McBride agreed to distribute the Coastal Resources Management Council's draft Marine Resources Development Plan, currently open to public comment.